

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM

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(Formerly Bureau of Health)  
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## ***\*\*UPDATE – Important Information\*\****

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**2008PHUPD003**

**TO:** Hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners, Public Health, State and Federal Agencies, ME Primary Care, Public Health Nurses

**FROM:** Dora Anne Mills, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Director

**SUBJECT:** Cereal recalled due to contamination with *Salmonella*

**DATE:** April 10, 2008

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**PAGES:** 2

**PRIORITY:** Review

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Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)  
(Formerly Bureau of Health)

## **Cereal recalled due to contamination with Salmonella**

**Product Recall:** On April 5, 2008 the Malt-O-Meal Company of Minnesota announced a recall of unsweetened puffed rice and unsweetened puffed wheat cereals. In addition to Malt-O-Meal's own brand, these cereals are sold under multiple labels including the store brands for Hannaford and Shaw's Supermarkets. The other brands being recalled are Acme, America's Choice, Food Club, Giant, Jewel, Laura Lynn, Pathmark, ShopRite, Tops, and Weis Quality. The products recalled include "Best if used by" codes between April 8, 2008 (APR0808) and March 18, 2009 (MAR1809). The entire list of products included in the recall is available at: <http://www.malt-o-meal.com/recallinfo/>. The reason for the recall was contamination with *Salmonella*.

**Salmonella:** Maine has identified three cases of *Salmonella* infection of the same uncommon serotype as that found in the contaminated cereal, based on preliminary information. The onset of illness dates range from January 22 to March 19. Two individuals were hospitalized. All three reported consumption of unsweetened puffed rice or wheat cereals, but at present it is unknown if the products consumed were part of the current recall.

Salmonellosis is a bacterial disease that can cause acute abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The infection can be most severe in the very young, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals. Salmonella is often transmitted through consumption of contaminated food.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Individuals who have any of the cereal covered by the recall should discard it or return the product to the place of purchase for a full refund.
- 2) Individuals who have eaten the product and are currently ill with diarrhea should consult with their health care provider. Providers should obtain stool specimens for culture. Testing is not recommended for persons who may have eaten the cereal, but are not currently ill.
- 3) The Maine CDC should be notified of any cases of salmonellosis. For further information, call 1-800-821-5821.